



Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Matters

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Summer Tours
Available!



Tours a Big Hit!

Summer Tours are heating up. Several members and staff have been exploring and learning about Arizona with the Game and Fish Department. A popular tour is our “Border Impact Tour” where we look at the impact of illegal immigration on wildlife habitat. Please come out and join us and learn more about the Department and our management of Arizona’s wildlife. (*See below-contact the Department at 602-789-3533 for more information*)

Summer Tour Packages

Wildlife Viewing Tour – dates apply

Choose a species or place you would like to go and view wildlife.

- View California Condors
- Go on an Elk Survey (late August)
- Urban wildlife, see the effects of feeding wildlife first hand.
- Capture Big Horn Sheep, Elk and other species for collaring.

Border Impact Tour – flexible dates

This tour shows the impact of illegal immigration on border habitat as well as international cooperation and projects on the border.

- Aerial viewing of improved wildlife habitat and wildlife refuges
- Viewing of dumpsites, polluted catchments and damaged habitat

Law Enforcement Patrols – flexible dates (choose one or more)

Ride along with a Game Ranger or join a “wolf-pack” OUI patrol on an Arizona Lake.

- OUI “wolf-pack” patrol
- Check License and tags during a hunt season
- Check guide and fishing licenses on the Colorado River.

Wildlife Habitat Tour (choose your area of the state!) –flexible dates

This tour shows how wildlife habitat in Arizona is slowly eroding and what we can do to help stop this.

- Aerial viewing of improved wildlife habitat and denigrated habitat.
- View projects going on in your area. (water catchments,etc.)
- Learn about OHV (off-highway vehicle) use on public lands.



Draw Results



Carbon Monoxide



I want to Learn to ? Tour- flexible dates

Choose what you want to learn and schedule a date!

- Learn about the Department's shooting ranges and shoot some targets!
- Learn how to fish! Try fly-fishing or cast a spin rod.

Create your own tour

This list of tours is not exhaustive. There are many projects the Department is involved in that are not listed. What are you concerned with at the legislature? Make it a tour! Call the department for more details!

Big Game Hunt Draw Complete: Results Available

PHOENIX – The 2006 fall big game hunt draw is complete, and applicants can now find out if they have been drawn by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at azgfd.gov.

The department received more than 256,000 applications for the draw, about 30,000 more than last year.

Game and Fish officials said that hunt-permit tags will be mailed out to successful applicants by July 28.

Any tags remaining from the draw process will be available on a first-come, first-served process. Game and Fish officials said hunters should be aware that the first-come process has been modified for fall hunts this year. The department will begin processing first-come permits on Aug. 11, starting at 8 a.m. The online application process will not be used for first-come. Applications will be accepted **by mail only**. Send the applications to P.O. Box 52002, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2002.

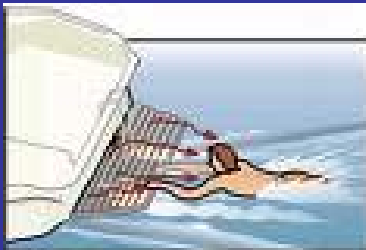
The first-come permit system allows individuals to apply for any leftover big game hunt permit-tags not issued during the normal fall or spring drawing process.

The big game draw is a lottery-style process for allocating the limited number of Arizona big game hunting permits to applicants.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Preventable

PHOENIX - Authorities are investigating carbon monoxide poisoning as the cause of the near drowning of two people at Lake Pleasant in Maricopa County this past Sunday. This has prompted the Arizona Game and Fish Department to deliver a warning about this dangerous boating hazard. Since 1998, four people in Arizona have died from carbon monoxide-related watercraft incidents.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is formed by incomplete combustion of any



Arizona Eagles

fuel, including gasoline, kerosene, wood, coal, oil, natural gas or charcoal. Sources on a boat include gasoline engines, generators, cooking ranges and space heaters.

"Carbon monoxide is a silent killer because it is an odorless, colorless gas," said Game and Fish Boating Safety Education Program Manager Ed Huntsman. "All boat engines produce carbon monoxide and boaters across the country are killed every year because of improper cabin ventilation, poorly maintained equipment and careless behavior."

Dangerous or deadly fumes can accumulate in confined spaces on boats, near stern ladders and under swimming platforms. Swimmers and water-skiers behind running boat engines face the greatest risk of exposure to exhaust fumes, which can build up to deadly levels. Boats emit up to 188 times the carbon monoxide that cars do.

Boaters should be aware of the threats posed by carbon monoxide and take the following steps to avoid them:

- install a battery-powered carbon monoxide detector;
- never operate watercraft at any speed or run idle under anchor while a person is occupying or holding onto the swim platform, swim deck, swim step or swim ladder;
- schedule regular engine and exhaust system maintenance;
- educate all passengers about carbon monoxide poisoning.

"You do not have to be inside the boat to be at risk," Game and Fish Boating Law Administrator Kevin Bergersen said. "Boaters have died from exposure on the swim platforms of their boats and in other areas where carbon monoxide exhaust may accumulate or be emitted. Be aware of the early symptoms like irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness and dizziness."

Several carbon monoxide deaths in the United States over the past several years have involved outdoor activities other than boating. Hunters and campers can be at risk of carbon monoxide exposure if they use portable heaters in enclosed spaces like campers and tents.

To learn more about how you can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning on recreational boats and other ways to stay safe, visit azgfd.gov.

Exceptional Year for Arizona's Eagles

PHOENIX - With the breeding season now over, Arizona can celebrate what's turning out to be an incredible year for the state's bald eagles. Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists confirm a record number of eagle breeding areas in the state, as well as a tie with the year 2004 for a record number of eaglets that lived to fledge, or begin flying, in Arizona.

"We are really excited at how this breeding season turned out," says James Driscoll, head of the Arizona Game and Fish Department Bald Eagle



Management Program. "Forty-two eagle nestlings fledged this year, tying our previous record in this state."

Biologists also found three new bald eagle breeding areas, for a record total of 50. Every year, many eagle breeding areas that are located near popular recreation areas are closed for the breeding season, so the birds' breeding attempts won't be interrupted by human activity. On June 30, the last of these closures was lifted, at the end of a very successful breeding season.

"The success of the season can be partly credited to our fantastic nest watchers," says Kenneth "Tuk" Jacobson, an Arizona Game and Fish bald eagle biologist.

Every year, nest watchers camp out for four months to monitor eagle breeding efforts in Arizona. The contractors spend dawn to dusk collecting data about the eagles' behavior and notifying rescuers of any life-threatening situations for the birds. Since the program began in 1978, it has helped to save the lives of almost 50 eaglets. This year alone, nest watchers helped to rescue and save four young eagles that otherwise might have died.

The bald eagle was federally listed as an endangered species in 1978. The birds have recovered enough to be listed now as a "threatened species."



BASF Clay Target Center

Game and Fish take over Clay Target Center

PHOENIX – The Arizona Game and Fish Department has announced plans to assume operation of the Ben Avery Clay Target Center after the current lease arrangement with a private operator expires on Sept. 17.

The clay target center provides a recreational venue for skeet, trap and sporting clays shotgun shooters and is on the property of the 1,600-acre Ben Avery Shooting Facility, which is owned by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and administered by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The department operates the other shooting ranges at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, located at the northwest corner of I-17 and Carefree Highway in Phoenix.

"We're very excited to have this opportunity," says Dana Yost, the department's assistant director for information and education. "The clay target center has a significant role to play in recreational shooting and in development of our youth programs, such as the Scholastic Clay Target Program. Our goal is to one day turn it into the finest trap, skeet and sporting clays facility in the country."

The department received direction at the June 24 meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to proceed with plans to take over operation of the clay target center at the end of the current vendor's lease agreement.



August Events



“The commission ultimately decided that the interests of the local shooting community would be best served by having the department run the clay target center,” says Yost. “The center will remain open during the transition to new management, and we don’t plan on any interruption in service.”

The Arizona Game and Fish Department supports shooting sports programs, firearms safety, hunter safety and shooting range development, in addition to its wildlife management and conservation responsibilities.

August Key Dates & Events

Aug. 5, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum Dragonfly Walk

Ayer Lake and the various water features at Boyce Thompson Arboretum are ideal habitat for the intricate mosaic-pattered Blue-eyed Darner and various other dragonfly species. Learn to identify common species during a one-hour walk that begins at 9:30 a.m. from the Visitor Center lobby located in Superior, AZ. Bring binoculars! Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes this tour. Visit www.ag.arizona.edu/BTA for more information.

Aug. 5, 2006

5:00 p.m.

Cottonwood NWTF Banquet

Join the Mingus Mountain Longbeards for their first-ever National Wild Turkey Federation Hunting Heritage Banquet and Wildlife Auction at the Elks Club in Clarkdale. Space is limited, so call Tim Denny today for your tickets at (928) 646-9146. Singles are \$55 and couples - \$80 with kids under 18 only \$20. All include a year’s NWTF membership. We’ll have some magnificent art work, quality bronzes, camping and hunting equipment, ladies jewelry and much, much more. We’re a family-oriented organization that believes in smaller, more-affordable banquets.

Aug. 14, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Boating Safety

Want to learn more about boating safety in Arizona? The Arizona Game and Fish Department invites you to attend this free presentation of the 2006 Wildlife Speaker Series. To register and receive more information about any of the events in the speaker series, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department office in Flagstaff at (928) 774-5045.

Aug. 26, 2006

4:30 p.m.

Northern Arizona Elk Viewing

The 2006 Wildlife Speaker Series presents; "Northern Arizona Elk Viewing," held at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Flagstaff office located at 3500 South Lake Mary Road. There will also be a field

trip after the presentation, expect to return around 7:30 p.m. Please call the Flagstaff Office to sign up: (928)-774-5045.

Aug. 26, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Butterflies of Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Bring along binoculars for the most dazzling display of colorful Butterfly species including Queen, Sulphur and Pipevine Swallowtail. This special guided outing is offered on the fourth Saturday each month with Education Coordinator Chris Kline, who will bring along his butterfly net and capture a few to allow kids a close up look at these insects during the tour. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:30 a.m. in Superior, AZ. Make sure to carry water and wear sunscreen and a hat. Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes this tour. Visit www.ag.arizona.edu/BTA for more information.



For additional information about *Wildlife Matters* Legislative Publication contact:

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Department Staff have contributed to this publication in the form of articles and photographs.

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AZGFD Legislative Affairs Division